

Did you know?

The Dubai Mall is the world's largest shopping mall based on total area. Located in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, this 20-billion-dollar project has 1,200 shops spread across an area spanning 1.12 km².



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New regulatory body for NGOs on cards

ALPHA ARZU The government plans to form an inter-ministerial committee headed by the finance minister to regulate and monitor the activities of non-governmental organisations, said a source at the social welfare ministry.

About 2.50 lakh NGOs now operate across the country. Of them, 10,000 are registered with the Office of the Registrar, Joint Stock Companies and Firms, 501 with Micro-Credit Regulatory Authority, 1.52 lakh with Department of Cooperatives, 16,030 with Department of Women and Children Affairs, 55,000 with Department of Social Welfare, one lakh with Department of Youth Development and 2,479 with NGO Affairs Bureau.

tration and Control) Ordinance, 1961 is found guilty of irregularities and anomalies, the department cancels its registration. But the same organisation can continue activities using its registration under the Company Act," added the source.



People from all walks of life, mostly children, greet Binod Bihari Chowdhury with flowers during a programme at Central Shaheed Minar. The British-era revolutionary stepped on to his 100th year of life on January 10. Story on page 2.

CTG CLASH Reazuddin Bazar still tense

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

As the section 144, clamped following a clash between hawkers and traders on Thursday, continued for the second day yesterday Reazuddin Bazar and its adjoining areas wore a deserted look.

The section 144 had been in force from 6:00pm of Thursday in and around Reazuddin Bazar, Station Road, New Market and Amtala areas. The clash left 22 people, including seven policemen, injured.

Traders' leaders yesterday urged the authorities concerned to free the main entry

Irregular workers in Malaysia brace for hard time

More stringent visa renewal process mullied

PORIMOL PALMA

Bangladeshis working in Malaysia on irregular basis and staying there for over a decade will face repatriation or arrest as the country has moved for more stringent visa renewal process and a crackdown on illegal foreigners.

According to sources, some 20,000 to 30,000 Bangladeshi nationals have been working in Malaysia for 13 years while there are many thousand who went there legally but have no valid work permit due to their employers' fraudulent deals.

Online Malaysian newspaper The Star

reports, Home Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin said the government would also look into tightening entry checks, enhancing security in the issuance of visas and cooperating with neighbouring countries that were being used as alternative entry points.

He said, "Those whose permits have expired can participate in the voluntary repatriation programme, where they only need to pay a minimal amount for returning home. The deadline for this offer is May 16."

"We view the abuse seriously," he said referring to overstay of illegal immigrants. The

AL leader murdered in Kishoreganj

A CORRESPONDENT, Kishoreganj

Awami League leader and a former member of Union Parishad was hacked to death by criminals yesterday afternoon in Hossainpur upazila of Kishoreganj district.

The victim, Abu Bakar Siddik Dhanu, 55, succumbed to his injuries at Mymensingh Medical College Hospital while his daughter, Nadira Akter Nupur, 28, injured in the attack, was undergoing treatment at Kishoreganj Adhunik Sadar Hospital. Her condition was stated to be critical.

Meer Abdus Sattar, officer-in-charge of Hossainpur, said a group of miscreants hacked

Saddam wasn't big threat after 9/11

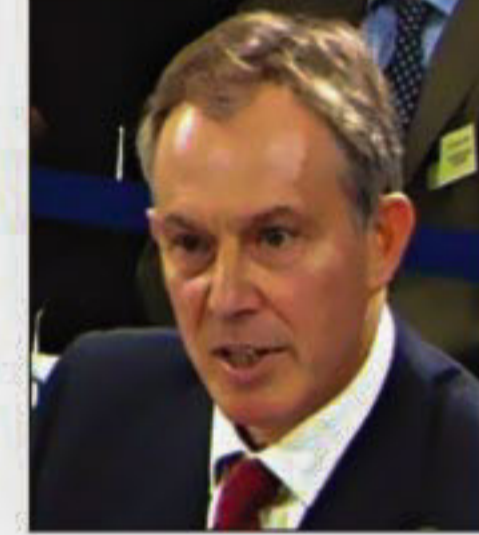
Admits Blair in Iraq inquiry

AP, London

Former British prime minister Tony Blair acknowledged yesterday that Saddam Hussein didn't become a bigger threat after September 11, but said his perception of the risk posed by terrorists acquiring weapons of mass destruction was dramatically changed by the attacks.

Blair told Britain's Iraq Inquiry that his contentious decision to back the 2003 US-led invasion of Iraq was inspired by fears of another, even deadlier, terror attack. "It wasn't that objectively he (Saddam) had done more, it was that our perception of the risk had shifted," Blair said.

"The primary consideration for me was to send an absolutely



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4 get life for throwing acid on housewife

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A Habiganj court awarded life imprisonment to four persons on Thursday for throwing acid on a housewife over land disputes.

The convicts are Saqid Miah, Yakub Miah, Nahid Miah and Farid Miah. Of them, Farid is hiding.

District and Sessions Judge Mahbub Ul Alam passed the judgement.

The prosecution in the case said the accused were locked in a land dispute with Parvin Akhtar, wife of Tota Miah, at Paikura in Chunarughat upazila of Habiganj on January 31, 2007.



Ruet students clash with police and bus workers, not in frame, on campus yesterday.

Ruet students clash with workers, cops

50 hurt; traffic suspended on Dhaka-Rajshahi highway for 5 hrs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Over 50 people including teachers and a journalist were injured yesterday as bus workers and police clashed with students on Rajshahi University of Engineering and Technology (Ruet) campus and at Rajshahi bus terminal.

A clash ensued between bus workers and Ruet students after a bus hit a carriage brought out by the students of Electrical Department as part of rag day celebration near Rajshahi bus terminal at around 12:30pm.

Vehicular movement on the Dhaka-Rajshahi highway remained suspended for about five hours following the clash.

At one stage, bus workers took six students including Sweet, Rokan, Reza and Ratan to the Bus Workers' Union office and beat them up.

Police rescued the six after half an hour. As the news spread on the Ruet campus, over 500 students put barricades on the Dhaka-Rajshahi highway at about 2:00pm. Police swooped on them when the students carrying sticks marched towards bus counters at Kajla near the Ruet main gate.

Police also beat up Selim Hossain, teacher of Ruet Electrical Department, near the gate as he tried to calm the students. He was admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital with a

Global climate deal hinges on money

WEF urged to pay more to fight climate change

AP, AFP, Davos

The success of talks this year to salvage a global climate accord hinges on money, Mexico's President Felipe Calderon said yesterday, urging executives at the World Economic Forum to pay more to fight climate change.

Despite recent scandals that have invigorated global warming sceptics, Calderon and the UN climate chief vigorously defended scientific work showing that sea levels are rising and glaciers melting, with consequences for millions of people and economies worldwide.

Calderon will host the UN climate summit in

Cancun at the end of the year, which hopes to improve on the failure last month in Copenhagen to produce a binding accord limiting carbon emissions.

"The economic costs associated with trying to tackle climate change" are central to the challenges facing governments, he said.

"We need to try to learn from our mistakes in Copenhagen," Calderon said in Davos. "If we can find an economic mechanism ... we will be on track."

Rich and developing countries clashed at Copenhagen over how much, and how, each

GLOBAL WARMING Laden blames rich nations

AFP, Dubai

al-Qaeda chief Osama bin Laden blamed industrial nations for global warming, and urged a boycott of the US dollar to end "slavery," in an audio tape aired by Al-Jazeera television on Friday.

"All industrial nations, mainly the big ones, are responsible for the crisis of global warming," bin Laden said in the message attributed to him by the pan-Arab news channel based in Doha.

In an unusual message possibly timed to coincide

4th convocation of JU today

UNB, JU

All preparations have been completed for holding the fourth convocation of Jahangirnagar University today.

President Zillur Rahman, also the chancellor of the university, will formally inaugurate the function at the central playground of the university in the morning.

The programme will start with a procession led by the president at 11:30am. Members of JU senate, syndicate, academic council and others will take part in a procession.

The campus has already put on a festive mood for the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Prayer Timing January 30. Table with columns: Fajr, Azan, Jamaat, Zohr, Asr, Maghrib, Esha.

The Daily Star Coming out tomorrow - Star Campus

Linking Young Minds Together

The Daily Star offers campus based weekly magazine 'Star Campus' - the ultimate magazine for the young generation - a common platform for the college and university students and academicians - to share their ideas, thoughts, dreams, opinions and views.



OnlinePoll Do you agree with Barrister Moudud Ahmed that a constitutional vacuum will be created if the Supreme Court upholds the High Court verdict that nullified the Fifth Amendment? Total votes: 670